Visa violation

1628. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules and regulations concerning visiting, tourist and employment visas and the obligations of beneficiaries of such visas;

(b) whether it is a fact that people on visiting visas overstay and engage in commercial activities in the country; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and the number of such cases detected during the last three years and number of people deported back to their country of origin for such visa violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Specific visas are issued to the foreigners according to the purpose of the visit. Visitors *visa* is issued to Pakistani nationals only. Tourist visa is issued for the purpose of tourism and casual visit, *viz.* meeting friends and relatives. Employment visa is issued to the foreigners who are highly skilled and qualified professionals. A foreigner, who is granted Indian visa, is required to stick to the purpose for which visa has been granted.

(b) and (c) Instances of overstayal by foreigners have been detected. The number of foreigners found to have been overstaying during last three years are as under:

Year	No. of foreigners overstaying (As on 31st December)
2001	55,171
2002	50,022
2003	51,522

If a foreigner is found to be engaged in commercial or any other activity, which is not permissible under the visa category granted to him/her, action is initiated against him/her under the relevant provisions of law. State Governments / UT Administrations/ Foreigner Regional Registration Officers/ Chief Immigration Officers have been given powers to detect and deport foreigners violating visa rules. As per available information, the number of foreigners deported during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of deportation (As on 31st December)
2001	9,071
2002	6,394
2003	20,768

Non-availability of equipments to tackle natural calamities

†1629. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that necessary equipments are not available to face a natural calamity in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The State Government/Union Territory Administrations have been advised to train and equip search and rescue teams for responding to natural calamities, which is being done. The State Governments have been authorized to utilize 10% of the annual allocation of the Calamity Relief Fund for procurement of essential search and rescue equipments including communication equipments.

Visiting abroad without approval of screening committee

1630. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Secretaries to Government of India from scientific departments are eligible to visit abroad based on invitation received in personal capacity of the officer;

(b) if so, the details of such visits during the years 2001-2004;

(c) whether the officers have to take approval of Screening Committee of Secretaries or Prime Minister before accepting invitation and clearance of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act for accepting remuneration/ honorarium;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.